

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EA-10

OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 /091 W
----- 041263

R 061810Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1177

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 0659

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GY, US

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL REACTION TO EVENTS IN INDOCHINA

DEPT ALSO PASS USIA FOR ILA AND IOP/M

REF: GEORGETOWN 0643

1. SUMMARY: EVENTS IN INDOCHINA CONTINUE TO DRAW ONLY LIMITED COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS. SUNDAY GRAPHIC IN EDITORIAL MAY 5 CALLED FOR NEW "TRULY LIBERAL" U.S. FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON RECOGNITION WESTERN STYLE DEMOCRACY MAY NOT BE SUITED TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND ON AID POLICY WITHOUT STRINGS. GRAPHIC EDITORIAL ALSO EXPRESSES CONCERN THAT KOREA MAY BE SCENE OF NEXT CONFRONTATION. EDITORIAL IN PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY PAPER, MIRROR, DESCRIBED VIETNAM AS EXAMPLE AND INSPIRATION TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AROUND WORLD. END SUMMARY.

2. MEDIA COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN INDOCHINA CONTINUES TO BE LIMITED AS MOST PRESS STORIES FOCUS ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVT MEETING IN JAMAICA. ONLY SIGNIFICANT ITEMS IN WEEKEND PRESS, OTHER THAN WIR SERVICE STORIES, ARE EDITORIALS IN GOVT-OWNED SUNDAY GRAPHIC AND IN PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY PAPER, MIRROR.

3. IN AMBLING AND CONFUSED EDITORIAL, SUNDAY GRAPHIC OF MAY 5 CALLS FOR NEW U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN AFTERMATH OF U.S. "DEFEATS".

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IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. CALLING FOR COMPLETE "OVERHAUL" OF

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY "IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM", GRAPHIC STATES U.S. POLICY WAS NOT "BAD" INITIALLY, BUT THAT POLICY MAKERS "FAILED TO FULLY ASSESS LOCAL SITUATION". AND AS RESULT "BACKED WRONG HORSE".

4. IN DISCUSSING EFFECT OF EVENTS IN INDOCHINA, EDITORIAL SEES DANGEROUS SITUATION DEVELOPING IN KOREA AS NORTH KOREA SEEKS U.S. WITHDRAWAL AND REUNIFICATION OF COUNTRY WHILE U.S. STANDS FIRM IN EFFORT TO RESTORE ITS PRESTIGE. U.S. INVESTMENT IN KOREA IS CITED AS ADDITIONAL REASON U.S. MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED IN "BLOODY" CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PRO-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES".

5. AS CONSEQUENCE OF "FAILURE" IN INDOCHINA, AND SETBACKS IN MIDDLE EAST AND PORTUGAL, EDITORIAL SEES POSSIBLE RETURN BY U.S. TO ISOLATIONISM. THIS WILL "SUIT CERTAIN U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS HANDSOMELY SINCE IT WILL MEAN, IN EFFECT, ALMOST IMMEDIATE TAX CUTS, THEREBY INFLATING PROFITS, FOR WITH FEWER U.S. COMMITMENTS OVERSEAS THE PENTAGON WOULD HAVE LITTLE OR NO CAUSE FOR SOME OF THE TAXES NOW IMPOSED ON U.S. BUSINESSES". WHILE GRAPHIC FINDS THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS UNLIKELY TO HEED CALL FOR RETURN TO ISOLATIONISM, IT SPECULATES THAT HE "MAY CONSIDER CALL FOR TIGHTENING OF U.S. MONETARY CONDITIONS" TO RESTRICT OVERSEAS FLOW OF DOLLARS AND "TO GENERATE MORE WEALTH AT HOME".

6. GRAPHIC THEN STATES WHAT U.S. REALLY NEEDS IS "TRULY LIBERAL FOREIGN POLICY, IN THE MODERN POLITICAL SENSE, WHICH RECOGNIZES THAT DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AS EXISTS IN WEST IS NOT LIKELY TO BE SUITED TO OTHER COUNTRIES. SECONDLY, U.S. MUST GIVE AID WITHOUT POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC STRINGS SO RECIPIENT COUNTRIES CAN BELIEVE THEY HAVE "REAL FRIEND" IN U.S. GRAPHIC ADDS THAT U.S. HAS "TREMENDOUS" MILITARY AND ECONOMIC POWER IN CARIBBEAN WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL BE USED WISELY SINCE "OUR EXISTENCE AS FREE PEOPLE DEPENDS A GREAT DEAL ON U.S. POWER". LISTING EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS CONSIDERED AS UNWISE USE OF THAT POWER, EDITORIAL CITES U.S. BEHAVIOR IN MIDDLE EAST, TRADE ACT, AND U.S. CONTROL OVER PANAMA CANAL ZONE. IN CLOSING, GRAPHIC CALLS FOR U.S. TO RELINQUISH "SOVEREIGNTY" OVER CANAL ZONE TO BRING ABOUT "NEW ATMOSPHERE OF CALM IN THE AREA".

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7. EDITORIAL IN MIRROR, PARTY PAPER OF MOSCOW - LINE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY, CONTINUES PPP'S PREVIOUS PRAISE FOR "STUPENDOUS VICTORY" IN VIETNAM. EDITORIAL HAILS VIETNAM STRUGGLE AS EXAMPLE AND INSPIRATION TO OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOVT-OWNED AND NEVER KNOWINGLY OPPOSING NC/GOG, GRAPHIC DOES NOT NECESSARILY SPEAK FOR THE GOVT. IN THIS CASE, IT WOULD APPEAR GRAPHIC IS NOT RPT NOT STATING"

OFFICIAL" VIEW OF EVENTS IN INDOCHINA OR OF US FOREIGN POLICY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GEORGE00659
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750159-0075
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750578/aaaactni.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GEORGETOWN 0643
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 23 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL REACTION TO EVENTS IN INDOCHINA DEPT ALSO PASS USIA FOR ILA AND IOP/M
TAGS: PFOR, GY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006